



Rural County Grant

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The Rural County Grant Program empowers rural county governments to take responsibility for their economic development planning, projects and activities to manage their unique opportunities.

Rural counties of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class are eligible to apply for the Rural County Grant. The program addresses the economic development needs of rural counties, which may include:

- Business recruitment, development, and expansion
- Workforce training and development
- Infrastructure and capital facilities improvements for business development

Grant Program Components

The Rural County Grant Program has two distinct parts. They are:

- **Part A: Annual Distribution** – Grant funding of up to and including \$200,000 annually; distributed equally to each qualifying rural county
- **Part B: Competitive Award** – Grant funding obtained by competitive application; exceeds the \$200,000 annual distribution; up to an overall amount not to exceed \$800,000 per year for a single county

Qualifications

To qualify for a Rural County Grant, the county must form and have a functioning County Economic Development Advisory Board (CED Board). Each CED board assists and advises the county legislative body on the following:

1. Applying for a rural county grant.
2. Determining what economic development projects and activities should be funded with the grant money.
3. Preparing required annual reports.

County Match Requirements and Reporting

In 2021, and subsequent years, a rural county may not receive additional Rural County Grant Part A or B unless the county demonstrates a funding match equal to a percentage of the awarded amount. Matching percentages are as follows:

- 10% match for a county of the sixth class
- 20% match for a county of the fifth class
- 30% match for a county of the fourth class
- 40% match for a county of the third class

Subsequent Rural County Grants also require that a county 1) has complied with the reporting requirements of the Governor's Rural Partnership Board, and 2) has complied with reporting requirements for all previous years the county has received a grant.

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Grant Administration

The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, through the Office of Rural Development, administers the Rural County Grant Program. Oversight for the grant program is by the Governor's Rural Partnership Board.

Rural County Grant Qualifying Counties

Rural counties in Utah of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class have created and have an active County Economic Development Advisory Board, are eligible to apply for grants under the Rural County Grant Program. Rural counties, by classification, are:

Counties of the Third Class

(population of 31,000 or more, but less than 125,000)

- Box Elder County
- Cache County
- Iron County
- Summit County
- Tooele County
- Uintah County

Counties of the Fourth Class

(population of 11,000 or more, but less than 31,000)

- Carbon County
- Duchesne County
- Juab County
- Millard County
- Morgan County
- San Juan County
- Sanpete County
- Sevier County
- Wasatch County

Counties of the Fifth Class

(population of 4,000 or more, but less than 31,000)

- Beaver County
- Emery County
- Garfield County
- Grand County
- Kane County

Counties of the Sixth Class

(population less than 4,000)

- Daggett County
- Piute County
- Rich County
- Wayne County

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